



NEWSLETTER Summer 2020

Welcome Message from the Council Co-Chairs

Who can believe that it's almost the High Holidays? It has been a long 5+ months since COVID-19 changed our world. We have become very familiar with Zoom and have learned new ways to practice medicine and treat our patients. We have celebrated holidays, birthdays and unfortunately deaths in our new "normal." It is hard to believe that Rosh Hashanah will be here in less than a month. As we prepare for the new Jewish year of 5781, let us hope that this new year will bring us closer to ending this pandemic.

In this newsletter, you will find links to our fascinating Hadassah On Call podcast, upcoming webinars and news about what is happening at Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO). Please continue to support Hadassah in any way possible.

Unfortunately, we have decided to postpone the councils' trip to Israel in April 2021 due to the pandemic. We are planning a trip in 2022! We will share details with you as soon as we have more information.

Shana Tova! Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Laura Brandspiegel and Stacey Keen
Co-Chairs, Hadassah National Physicians Council



Meet a Member: Rachel Schonberger

"At the 2006 Convention, Jim Smith and I met with then-HMO-Chair, Diane Issenberg, to discuss the possibility of forming a National Physicians' Council (PC). Nurses Councils were showing success. However, several frustrating attempts to develop local PC's had been unsuccessful. The only PC experiencing sustained continuity was the Physicians' Council organized by Karen Ezrine and Stacey Keen in Baltimore. Most local PCs and Attorneys Councils suffered from similar constraints: 1) finding a way to reach non-member physicians as well as Hadassah Member and Associate physicians; 2) time obligations of CME and specialty societies; and 3) the expectation of having staff support from people used to that

model in their professional lives.

Nonetheless, Jim and I, with Diane's support, were convinced that a newsletter focusing on medical news from Hadassah could appeal to busy doctors. We also raised the possibility of providing an accredited CME in Jerusalem. The newsletter proved a daunting project. But with guidance from National Board Member Rochelle Edelman, Karen Ezrine, Stacey Keen, Jill Schwartz-Chevlin, Joel Strom and a dedicated committee, we created a CME, "From Concept to Cure," accredited by Emory University in March 2008. The CME brought doctors to Israel from the US, Canada, the UK and Australia, and alerted HMO doctors to the presence of professional colleagues in HWZOA. With leadership from Ann Karty and input from Gwen Cooper-Simon, Diane Snyder, Tommy Schechtman and Alan Mindlin, CMEs continued in 2010, 2012 and

2014, each time presenting amazing research done at HMO. (Apologies to those organizers whose name I have missed.)

After I retired as Director of Community Medicine in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at Emory University Medical School in 2005, I became a full-time volunteer with Hadassah. I moved on from helping to found the PC to become Atlanta Chapter President, then Southeastern Region President, HMO Chair (best job ever) and now a National Vice President. The Physician Council CMEs have helped me maintain my medical license. For some physicians, it has provided an entry point into Hadassah.

The current PC Chairs are nurturing the seed we planted into a beautiful, flowering, fruitful plant. Kol Hakavod Stacey and Laura. Keep up the great work."



Webinar Recap: Science and Social Justice

The Hadassah Professional Councils webinar "Understanding the Role of Science in Promoting Social Justice and Improving our Lives" was held on July 28. It featured Hadassah member Paula Apsell, the winner of a Lifetime Achievement Emmy for her role as senior executive produce of PBS's acclaimed NOVA series. The webinar was sponsored by the Physicians Council along with the Nurses and Allied Health Professions and Attorneys and Judges Councils and open to all members.

After an introduction by Professional Councils Chair Carole Greenfield, Executive Editor of *Hadassah Magazine* Lisa Hostein conducted a fascinating interview with Apsell covering a wide variety of topics. Apsell described her love for science and the path that led to her career at NOVA. In her work,

Paula Apsell emphasizes topics illuminating science as a tool for social justice. She gave as an example the NOVA episode featuring the citizen scientists of Flint, Michigan who took matters into their own hands by sending water to an out-of-state lab for testing.

Paula Apsell is exploring the Jewish resistance during the Holocaust. She produced a NOVA episode documenting the discovery of escape tunnels created by Lithuanian Jews during the Holocaust and is currently working on a project exploring escape tunnels across the region in Poland and Belarus as well as Lithuania.

Apsell noted that trust in science is currently fragile. There is a need to invest more in science education and the understanding of the scientific method. She describes science as highly practical in solving pressing problems, but also aesthetic and philosophical, helping us understand our own bodies, the world, and the galaxy. Ending on a hopeful note, she concluded: "You never know where knowledge and understanding will take us."

You can watch a recording of the webinar [here](#).



UPCOMING WEBINAR:

Medical Marijuana: Highs & Lows, Smoke & Mirrors

Tuesday, September 15 at 8:00 pm ET

Dr. Jordan Tishler, a noted Harvard doctor with years of experience in the field of cannabis, will separate fact from fiction and address all your questions about when, how and why to treat certain conditions with cannabis – and when not to. This webinar is presented by Hadassah's Professional Councils and is open to all. Please share with anyone interested. Click [here](#) to register.



Honor Her Memory

The Physicians Council is raising funds in memory of Dr. Nancy Dintenfass, a Hadassah and Physicians Council member who passed away in 2018. In addition to the caring, warm person we remember, Nancy was a wonderful radiologist specializing in Breast Imaging. Our goal is to raise \$36,000 for a fully equipped double patient room in the Hematology Oncology Department in the Round Building. Please join us in creating this legacy. The link to the Hadassah special page about

Nancy including the donation code is available [here](#).



Take Action: Support Expanding US-Israel Medical Partnerships

For decades, the US and Israel have collaborated in medical partnerships between our armed forces and between our universities in ways that have benefited both nations. In July, Hadassah passed a

new [United States of America-Israel Medical Partnerships policy statement](#) and is pushing to legislation in this area. Visit the [National Action Center](#) to promote the work of Hadassah Medical Organization and urge legislators to support expanding US-Israel medical partnerships to combat COVID-19. You are encouraged to personalize the letter, including your medical expertise and ties to Hadassah.



Hadassah On Call Goes "Behind the Scenes of Hadassah's ICU"

The Hadassah On Call: New Frontiers in Medicine podcast gives a behind-the-headlines look at Hadassah Medical Organization's doctors and specialists, patients and nurses. The most recent episode features Dr. Vernon Van Heerden, the head of Hadassah Hospital's General Intensive Care Unit. The first person in his family to attend university, Dr. Van Heerden speaks about his personal and

professional life. His current research focuses on doctor burnout and compassion fatigue. Listen to this riveting podcast episode [here](#).

Hadassah in the News: Read, Watch and Be Inspired

New Round Building and Full Campus videos dramatically document progress with the modernization of the Hadassah Round Building, plus new plans for expanding renovations at Hadassah Mt. Scopus and Hadassah Ein Kerem. See how Hadassah is working to save lives through research, treatment and patient care. Watch the videos [here](#).

Read dramatic news stories about Hadassah's life saving work, including treating [a young girl who had swallowed magnetic marbles and required surgery](#), and a [teenager whose vulnerable heart was transformed by Hadassah's cardiac experts](#). [Go to the Hadassah news page for more](#).



SAVE THE DATE

October 14, 2020, 8:00 pm ET: "Latest Advances in Women's Health Issues,"
a panel presentation by Hadassah Greater Kansas City Physicians Council

October 25, 2020, 8:00 pm ET: "Eye Health 2020" with Dr. Lynn Brandes,
presented by the Hadassah Physicians Council

Registration links will be sent out closer to the program dates.

Email us at physicianscouncil@hadassah.org

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